



FloorPrep

Legislative Digest

Tuesday, March 21, 2000

J.C. Watts, Jr.
Chairman
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour
and 2:00 p.m. for Legislative Business
(No Votes Before 7:00 p.m.)*

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.Con.Res. 288—Sense of Congress Supporting National Family Day
H.R. 1680—Kern County California Land Exchange Act
H.Res. 182—Urging the National Park Service to Use DOD Support Services
H.R. 1725—Miwaleta Park Expansion Act
H.R. 1666—Designating the Captain Colin P. Kelly, Jr. Post Office

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Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

Floor Situation: The House will consider the following five bills under suspension of the rules as its first order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

H.Con.Res. 288 expresses the sense of Congress to (1) recognize the importance of children and families to the future of the U.S.; (2) express support for the goals and ideas of National Family Day as established by KidsPeace; (3) encourage Americans to participate in local and national activities honoring National Family Day; and (4) believe that families who communicate and spend time together create stronger family ties. National Family Day is an annual holiday held every March—developed by KidsPeace and the National Tabletop and Giftware Association—to recognize the importance of family. KidsPeace, one of the largest non-profit organizations helping kids overcome crisis, researched establishing a new holiday for families and concluded families must be encouraged to engage in conversation, especially at mealtime. The bill was introduced by Mr. Toomey *et al.* and was not considered by a House committee.

H.R. 1680 conveys four parcels of land currently under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service to Kern County, California, in exchange for county lands that will become a part of the Sequoia National Forest. Specifically, the land that will be transferred to Kern County consists of (1) 70 acres known as Camp

Owen; (2) four acres known as Wofford Heights Park; (3) four acres known as the French Gulch maintenance yard; and (4) 14 acres known as the Kernville Fish Hatchery. In exchange, the county will convey 52 acres of Greenhorn Mountain Park to the federal government, provide a storage facility for the federally owned Greenhorn Ranger District Lake Isabella Maintenance Yard, and remit an “equalization payment” to the Forest Service of an amount to be determined by the Agriculture Secretary that does not exceed \$100,000. The measure was introduced by Mr. Thomas and was reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote on February 16, 2000.

H.Res. 182 expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the National Park Service should take full advantage of support services offered by the Department of Defense. The National Park Service was established to promote and regulate units of superlative natural, historic, and recreation areas designated as national parks, monuments, and other reserves and to conserve scenery and wildlife. The service has built structures, roads, and other facilities to aid in accomplishing these goals; however, the service has reported a backlog of projects necessary to maintain them that will cost approximately \$6 billion to correct.

The Defense Department has the authority to provide support and services to other federal agencies, including the National Park Service. Part of this support could be provided by the Civil Military Department of Defense Innovative Readiness Training Program that is designed to improve military readiness while providing hands-on training opportunities for military personnel and assisting with meeting domestic priorities. The Defense Department’s support and service could substantially aid in reducing the backlog of maintenance and other projects identified by the National Park Service. This bill urges the National Park Service to immediately take full advantage of the support services offered by the department in order to alleviate the backlog. The measure was introduced by Mr. Hansen and was reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote on March 15, 2000.

H.R. 1725 directs the Interior Secretary to convey, without compensation, 28.5 acres of land to Douglas County in Oregon. The county is seeking the rights and titles to the land to construct a campground. The land includes Miwaleta Park that is managed by the county and an adjacent tract of federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. If the Interior Secretary determines after the transfer that the land is not being used for recreational purposes, all rights and titles to the land will revert back to the United States. This type of transfer may be made administratively under the 1926 Recreation and Public Purposes Act (*P.L. 69-386*); however, the number of assessments and consultations involved has resulted in a lengthy approval process. The approval process has also been delayed because of the presence of a bald eagle nest within one mile of the proposed campground and the fact that several juvenile spotted owls have been seen in the vicinity. The county would like to begin construction on the campground as soon as possible; this bill seeks to expedite the process. The measure was introduced by Mr. DeFazio and was reported by the Resources Committee on October 20, 1999.

H.R. 1666 designates the post office located at 200 East Pinckney Street in Madison, Florida, as the “Captain Colin P. Kelly, Jr. Post Office.” Captain Kelly is a decorated veteran who is recognized by many as America’s first WWII hero. Shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Kelly and his crew were ordered on a bombing mission to attack the Japanese fleet. After completing their bombing run, the plane was attacked by two Japanese fighters. Kelly was given the order to abandon the aircraft, but remained at the controls to maintain the plane’s elevation so his crew could safely bail out. He did not have time to escape and was killed in the line of duty on December 10, 1941. President Roosevelt awarded Captain Kelly the Distinguished Service Cross posthumously for his actions. The designation of the post office in

his hometown is a tribute to his patriotism and heroism. The measure was introduced by Mr. Boyd and was reported by the Government Reform Committee on September 30, 1999.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXIX, #7, March 17, 2000.

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